



File ~~B/19/611~~

caring about you & your environment

Office of the Chairperson

25 May 1-999

Mayor John Terris
Hutt City Council
Private Bag 3 19 12
LOWER HUTT

POSTED
25 MAY 1999

Dear John

Petone Water Supply

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May.

Representatives of the Regional Council appreciated the opportunity to attend Hutt City's workshop on fluoridation on 11 May. At the workshop the Regional Council's view on fluoridation, and in particular fluoridation of the **Petone** water supply, was presented to you and your council colleagues.

Our present policy on fluoridation is no different to the view Councillors reached in 1993 when they last considered the issue. Namely, the benefits of fluoridation are substantial and outweigh any perceived dis-benefits by a large margin.

Fluoridation is an important public health issue and Regional Councillors spent a considerable amount of time discussing it at a closed Councillor workshop in April and at the Utility Services Committee meeting on 7 May. There is no doubt that the 1993 fluoridation review process which this Council initiated was one of the most comprehensive undertaken in New Zealand.

Research since 1993, presented to us recently by our health advisors, the Public Health Service, only reinforces the benefits of fluoride. This information was also presented to Hutt City by the Public Health Service at your workshop. Regional Councillors were pleased to note just how good young person's teeth are on average in the Wellington metropolitan area, compared to some other parts of the country. This is not surprising given that 98 percent of the population in the four Wellington metropolitan cities are supplied with fluoridated water. We were dismayed though to note the poor state of the teeth of five year olds in the Petone area compared to a similar age group in the rest of the metropolitan area who have access to fluoridated water. Fluoridation just makes so much difference.

A series of resolutions were passed at the Utility Services Committee meeting on 7 May. I have **attached** a copy for you. Of particular relevance is resolution (v). The network nature of our wholesale water supply brings many benefits to the community, in particular security of supply. Sometimes we are not able to give our city customers individual choice with regard to the water supply system as there are impacts on our other customers.

I am pleased to advise that in this case we are able to offer Hutt City a choice with regards to fluoridation. Regional Council officers have arrived at a number of solutions to provide fluoridated or unfluoridated water to Hutt City. These are explained in detail in a more technical letter to the City's Water Supply Manager. A copy is **attached**. The options vary from no cost, if the City endorses its previous advice that it will accept fluoridated Waterloo treatment plant water for Petone, to \$2.1 M for a fully dedicated pipeline from the Waterloo water treatment plant to the Rahui reservoir to carry unfluoridated water.

Our 1993 fluoridation consultation involved citizens throughout metropolitan Wellington. It was driven by the pending construction of the new Rahui reservoir and the need to determine the type of water to supply it. This was a thoroughly comprehensive process.

On 27 August 1993 Hutt City advised the WRC:

"The Rahui reservoir replacement is in our current three year programme for construction over the 1994/95 and 1995/96 years."

The delay in building the new reservoir is unfortunate. However, the delay has not been caused by the Regional Council. Our commitments to the new Rahui reservoir have been met. A new dedicated delivery water main has cost just over \$500,000. Bringing a pipeline back into service along the Petone foreshore has cost in excess of \$100,000. This will enable aquifer water, either fluoridated or unfluoridated, to be delivered to the new reservoir. These costs, plus the cost of the 1993 review process demonstrate our desire to try and meet our customer's needs.

The delay in building the new reservoir has caused operational problems for our staff. Earlier this week the second of two electric pump motors at Buick Street failed. The first had failed at an earlier date. A diesel motor is operating the pump for a few days while one of the motors is overhauled at the cost of several thousand dollars. Operational staff have serious concerns about the Buick Street facility. I am informed that there is now no option but to commission the new Rahui reservoir with fluoridated Waterloo water. This all adds to the urgency of Hutt City making a decision as to whether it prefers fluoridated or unfluoridated water for Rahui in the longer term.

At our lunch on Friday 21 May I think we both received a very clear position from the Mayors of the other three cities – that they do not wish to see a region wide consultation process on fluoride.

In summary, John, the WRC has not been presented with, nor is aware of, any evidence of a change in community attitudes regarding fluoridation - so at this stage I cannot recommend to my Council that we undertake further consultation work with regard to the Petone water supply or make any further financial commitment to capital works for the Petone supply.

There are a number of options available to Hutt City as I have mentioned above. We would ask the City to urgently review the options and let us have your decision. If the City decides to accept fluoridated water for the Petone supply then the Regional Council is willing to assist Hutt City in conveying this decision to the residents of Petone.

Yours sincerely



STUART MACASKILL
Chairman



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Office of the Chairperson

File: B/1 9/6/1

18 June 1999

Mayor John Terris
Hutt City Council
Private Bag 3 1 912
LOWER HUTT

Dear John

Petone Water Supply

Thank you for your letter of 4 June in which you raised two issues.

Firstly, the possibility of Hutt City taking over responsibility for supplying the area with water which is currently supplied from the Buick Street Pump Station. I raised this particular issue at the Utility Services Committee meeting on 15 June. It was apparent from the discussion that there are a number of important issues to be considered. Accordingly, a report is being prepared for consideration at the next Utility Services Committee meeting on 20 July. The issue of course has not only ramifications for Hutt City, but also for our other water supply customers.

The second point you raised concerns maintaining a supply of unfluoridated water from the Gear Island Pump Station. Officers of our two Councils met on 1 June to consider this and some other options which were raised by Hutt City. I understand that the investigations by this Council into these options are now complete, and a reply has been sent to Hutt City's Water Supply Manager (copy attached).

The Regional Council is keen to resolve this issue, but as you are aware, preparations to supply the new Rahui Reservoir with water from the Waterloo Water Treatment Plant are now well advanced. I would reiterate that with the present precarious nature of the Buick Street Pump Station there is no option but to supply Waterloo Water Treatment Plant water to the new Rahui Reservoir when it is completed later this year. This does not however preclude other options for the supply to Rahui in the longer term.

I will contact you again regarding the first issue I mentioned after the next meeting of the Utility Services Committee in July. I will also be very happy to host a discussion meeting on the issues, as you suggested when we spoke the other day. John, if you could have your PA make a date and time with Shirley Moore, we will hope the meeting to take place at the earliest possible date.

Yours sincerely

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

For